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THE TAXONOMIC HISTORY OF THE GENUS *REITHRODON* WATERHOUSE (CRICETIDÆ)

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In course of preparation of a synoptic collection which the Department of Mammals of The American Museum of Natural History is bringing together, considerable taxonomic research has proved necessary. That part of the compilation dealing with the genus *Reithrodon* is believed to be complete and is now presented for the use of students of South American mammals.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

1801. Azara described under the names "Rat quatrième au rat oreillard," a rat with large head, large ears and short tail, which appears to have been a *Reithrodon.*

1819. Desmarest applied the binomial *Mus auritus* (new species) to Azara's "Rat oreillard."

1830. Rengger described *Mus callosus* (n. sp.). (Synonymized by Trouessart in 1898 with *auritus,* but in 1916 removed by Thomas to *Hesperomys* as then restricted by him.)

1837. Waterhouse erected the genus *Reithrodon* (new genus), including in it *typicus* (n. sp.) and *cuniculoides* (n. sp.). Neither species was designated type of the genus.

1839. Waterhouse further characterized the genus, including in it, in addition to *typicus* and *cuniculoides, R. chinchilloides* (n. sp.) (removed later by Coues to *Euneomys*).

1843. Wagner included *cuniculoides, typicus* and *chinchilloides* in *Reithrodon.* He put *auritus* in *Hesperomys* but did not place it subspecifically.

1853. LeConte described a species of *Reithrodontomys* under the generic name *Reithrodon.*

1857. Baird, following LeConte, described several more *Reithrodontomys* as *Reithrodon.*

1874. Coues diagnosed *Reithrodon* critically. He removed *chinchilloides* to *Euneomys*, n. g., and designated (erroneously—see below, 1926) *cuniculoides* type species of the genus. Furthermore, he removed the *Reithrodontomys* of LeConte and Baird to "*Ochetodon.*"

1879. Burmeister, apparently ignorant of the work of Coues, again listed *chinchilloides* under *Reithrodon* with *typicus* and *cuniculoides*. He placed *auritus* in *Calomys*, subgenus of *Hesperomys*.

1880. Thomas described *alstoni*, n. sp., referring it erroneously to *Reithrodon*, but suggesting at the same time that it might be wrongly referred.

1884. Thomas described *pictus*, n. sp. (eventually placed in *Auliscomys*).

1898. Trouessart made *Euneomys* a synonym of *Reithrodon*, listing under the latter: *typicus*, *cuniculoides*, *alstoni* (removed later to *Sigmomys*), *chinchilloides* (*Euneomys*), and *pictus* (*Auliscomys*). He made *callosus* and "*pyrrhogaster*"[1] synonyms of *auritus*, which he placed in *Phyllotis*.

1899. Thomas described *fossor*, n. sp. (later removed by him to *Euneomys* and subsequently designated by him type of *Chelemyscus*, n. g.).

1900. Philippi described *Mus pachycephalus*, n. sp., and *Reithrodon longicaudatus*, n. sp. (subsequently made the type of *Irenomys*, n. g., by Thomas).

1901*a*. Thomas removed *alstoni* from *Reithrodon* to *Sigmomys*, n. g.

1901*b*. Thomas compared *Reithrodon*, *Euneomys*, which he made a full genus, and *Sigmomys*. He removed *fossor* and *pictus* from *Reithrodon* to *Euneomys*.

1903. Allen compared *Reithrodon* and *Euneomys*.

1905. Allen further discussed the genus *Reithrodon* and *R. cuniculoides*. He described *cuniculoides obscurus*, n. subsp., and *hatcheri*, n. sp.

1905. Trouessart, following Thomas and Allen, now made both *Reithrodon* and *Euneomys* full genera. Under *Reithrodon* he listed *cuniculoides cuniculoides*, *cuniculoides obscurus*, *hatcheri* and *typicus;* but he placed *callosa* under *Eligmodontia* and barely mentioned *longicaudatus* in a footnote under *Phyllotis*.

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[1] I find no such name as *pyrrhogaster* Wagner in the reference given by Trouessart (Abh. Akad. Wiss München, V, p. 313). On that page the only species listed is *Hesperomys brachyurus*. Moreover, the name does not appear in Wagner, Schreber's 'Säugethiere,' Supplement, 1855. *Pyrrhogaster* Trouessart then appears to be a *nomen nudum*.

1910. Wolffsohn stated that *Mus pachycephalus* was equal to *Reithrodon cuniculoides* (but Philippi's animal being from Chile may be a distinct subspecies).

1912. Thomas described *cuniculoides flammarum*, n. subsp.

1916*a*. Thomas removed *callosus* to *Hesperomys* (restricted).

1916*b*. Thomas described *cuniculoides pampanus*, n. subsp.

1919. Thomas recognized *longicaudatus* Philippi and designated it type of *Irenomys*, n. g.

1920. Thomas alluded to Rat oreillard Azara (=*auritus* Desmarest), accepting it as a species of *Reithrodon*. He described *caurinus*, n. sp., *auritus marinus*, n. subsp., and *typicus currentium*, n. subsp.

1926. International Rules of Nomenclature, Art. 30, I, b., ruled that the names *typus* and *typicus* must be construed as type by original designation, thus making *typicus* Waterhouse the type of the genus *Reithrodon* and displacing *cuniculoides*, designated type by Coues (1874).

1927. Thomas described *cuniculoides evæ*, n. subsp.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE GENUS *REITHRODON* WATERHOUSE

Type by original designation (so construed, 1926), *Reithrodon typicus* Waterhouse.

List of Apparent[1] Species and Subspecies with Type Localities

R. typicus typicus Waterhouse	Maldonado, Uruguay
R. typicus currentium Thomas	Goya, Corrientes, Argentina
R. auritus auritus (Desmarest)	Pampas south of Buenos Aires, Argentina
R. auritus marinus Thomas	Mar de la Plata, southeast coast of Buneos Aires, Argentina
R. cuniculoides cuniculoides Waterhouse	Santa Cruz, Patagonia, Argentina
R. cuniculoides obscurus Allen	Punta Arenas, Patagonia, Argentina
R. cuniculoides flammarum Thomas	Spring Hill, Tierra del Fuego
R. cuniculoides pampanus Thomas	Peru, F. C. P., 200 km. northwest of Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, Argentina
R. cuniculoides evæ Thomas	Zapala, Nequen, Patagonia, Argentina
R. hatcheri Allen	Head of Rio Chico de Santa Cruz, Patagonia, Argentina
R. caurinus Thomas	Otro Cerro, Catamarca, Argentina

[1]No responsibility can be accepted for the allocation of the species listed. Such responsibility should be assumed only by a reviser working with ample material.

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